

For Immediate Release

Contact: Erica Daughtrey

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*Washington, D.C.*-- Today, Congressman Sires joined his colleagues in voting for final passage of H.R. 847, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, by a vote of 206 to 60. This bill would provide long-term, comprehensive health care and compensation for those thousands of first responders and others exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero who are now sick and in need of treatment and compensation.

“The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center were not just an attack on New York City, but on our entire nation and we have the responsibility to care for those who served our nation in its time of need,” said Congressman Sires. “This bill will finally provide the proper care for those thousands of people, including firefighters, rescue workers, responders, police officers, EMTs, construction workers, cleanup workers, residents, area workers, and school children, who were exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero and are now ill.”

Specifically, this bill would provide funding for a World Trade Center Health Program to monitor and treat responders and community residents for health conditions related to the terrorist attacks. It would also reopen the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund to provide monetary compensation for those physically injured by the attacks or by response activities and debris removal.

“These heroic individuals selflessly served our nation on that tragic September day, and it is only fair that we return their sacrifice with just compensation,” said Congressman Sires. “I am very proud that this long overdue legislation will now be sent to President Obama’s desk for his signature to become law.”

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